



A LOVE STORY

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Cupid strikes MSU couples

February 11, 2009
Volume 1; Issue 2

the UNDERGROUND

THE UNOFFICIAL STUDENT PUBLICATION OF MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY



✖ Staff Editorial

Opportunities abound for MSU students

You can learn a lot in a classroom.

You can learn even more outside of it.

The university is a wholly unique institution in our society. It provides a stage where young adults can work to find themselves, cultivate interests and explore the possibilities of life.

And that exploration doesn't end in the classroom.

At Missouri State and in Springfield, opportunities abound for enriching oneself.

Internships.
Volunteer activities.
Student groups.
Art.
Theatre.
Cinema.

There are so many chances for students to enhance their life experiences, to help others and help themselves - to expand horizons.

If all you do is go to class, do your homework and study for tests, you are only getting part of the university experience. The opportunities exist, but you have to step up and take them.

Participate in a broad range of student activities.
Volunteer at local schools or nursing homes.
Attend an art show.

Or make your own artwork.

Contribute to your college newspaper.

Escape your normal routines. Test your boundaries. Force yourself out of your comfort zone.

Find out what you truly enjoy. Make friendships that last a lifetime. Discover the things you never thought you could do.

Don't just graduate Missouri State with a degree. Don't just graduate knowing a bunch of facts and figures. Graduate with the experience of a lifetime.

Use this time to find out who you are and what you truly want out of life. Explore the unknown possibilities.

The opportunities are out there.
It's up to you to seize them.

-Zach Becker
For the Editorial Board

Singles still can enjoy Valentine's

Ahhh, Valentine's Day.

For the many cynics, the worst day of the year—the day when they are constantly reminded of their “singleness.”

Everyone's in love, everyone's happy, everybody's sending or receiving flowers and running around happy-go-lucky.

The way I see it, you can take Valentine's Day several ways.

Hate it, tolerate it, or try to get through it. But there's another option: Enjoy it.

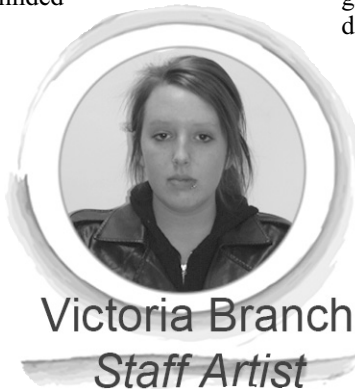
Pink, red, and white everywhere you look. Love songs playing on the radio, displayed in the halls, mushy talk on the phone, it's all practically a drug.

There is something about love, whether I'm in it or not, that is infectious. Being single on Valentine's Day doesn't have to be a shit show. It's all on how you perceive it.

Who says that it has to be all about romantic love?

Take the time to make a Valentine for your grandma, or call up a friend and tell them how much you love them. Or for that matter, lavish on yourself for a day... love yourself.

Buy a cute shirt, take yourself and a friend out to dinner or have a bro fest (just to remind guys that Valentine's can be a manly day). This holiday doesn't have to be such a downer.



Victoria Branch
Staff Artist

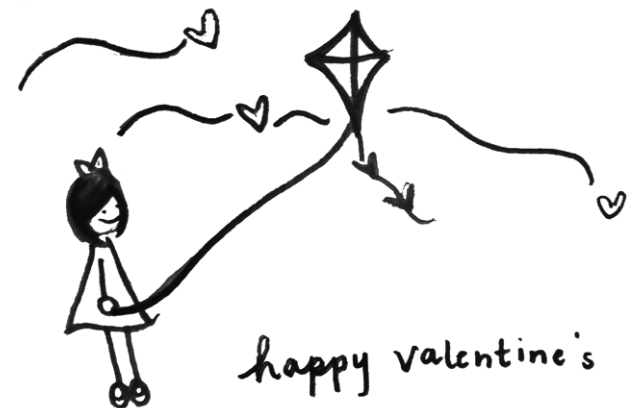
In fact, the origins of the holiday root back to a Latin festival called Lupercal, in which all the bachelors would grab women's names out of an urn and pair off for the day.

It also involved those men running around naked touching people with goat hide strips for fertility.

And hey, who says this tradition is dated?

Boys, if you're feeling a little crazy this February 14, maybe you should run around touching people with goat hide strips. Of course, be prepared for some significant opposition... but it sure would be a great story, right?

So whether you're celebrating with a loved one, by yourself or a big group of friends, know that Valentine's Day is for love, not just people that are married or dating. Throw on some “I Wanna Hold Your Hand” or Nat King Cole and learn to love love.



THE UNDERGROUND

Mission: *The Underground* strives to serve as a voice of integrity on the campus of Missouri State University. *The Underground* endeavors to comprehensively cover important events and issues on campus and to approach each article with honesty, accuracy, integrity, fairness and public service in mind.

About Us: *The Underground* is an independent student publication. Written and produced by a staff of student volunteers, *The Underground* is neither funded nor officially recognized by Missouri State University. It publishes twice-a-month (on Wednesdays). The newspaper is distributed on the MSU campus and at select local businesses. The publication is also available online.

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Radford, Keaster tell how love struck them

Abby Jo Moore
Contributor

It started out as a case of mistaken identity. It soon developed into a friendship. And after a magical date on a snowy day off from school, it blossomed into the love of a lifetime.

Sierra Radford, a junior in health communications, first met Blake Keaster, a junior in cell and molecular biology, purely by mistake one day during a class.

In fact, Sierra thought she was talking to someone else when she first met Blake. She had a class with Drew Keaster, Blake's identical twin, so when she saw Drew's look-alike sitting in another one of her classes, she went over to say hello. She soon realized her mistake, but it was the start of a wonderful friendship.

Flash forward a couple of months later, and Blake finally gained the nerve to ask Sierra out, inviting her to a dance in Garst cafeteria where a live band was performing. Whether it was the music or the fact that he told her he "was a ladies' man," Blake convinced her to come back with him to a friend's birthday party.

"We went and played in the snow," Sierra recalled. The next day Missouri State cancelled classes, so they went out to play again, this time just the two of them.

That first snow date happened a little over two years ago, but their relationship has quickly escalated into something lasting.

On July 4, 2008, Blake got on one knee to ask Sierra to marry him. He was "nervous," though, not because he questioned her response, but because he "didn't want to

drop the ring in the lake," he said.

"I took her out on the lake at night," Blake explained.

Sierra had come to visit Blake and their friends in his hometown of Mountain Home, Arkansas. She enjoyed his choice of proposal. "It was almost midnight," she said. "It was nice because no one else was on the lake."

Although the proposal was an exciting night for Sierra, a few clues gave away the surprise. "I knew it was coming," she explained.

She had suspected some kind of plan when Blake continually insisted that she come that specific night to Mountain Home after work, rather than the next morning. Moreover, the fireworks show their friends scheduled at the lake had been called off because Sierra hadn't arrived, making her yet more aware that plans were revolving around her.

The wedding will take place in Rolla, Missouri, Sierra's hometown, at the ballroom where she had her high school prom. "I'm in up to my neck planning stuff," she said.

As far as their families go, Sierra explained that "(Blake's) mom originally didn't want him to (marry) until after dental school." But both families seem to be nothing but excited now that the engagement has taken place. "They're both good with it, happy about it," Sierra said.

Why do the two love each other?

"Despite the fact that I'm mad at him..." Sierra started, joking. "He can always make me laugh."

"Sometimes it makes me madder."

For Blake, one of his favorite things about Sierra is how "talkative" she is. "It works well because she talks, and I listen," he explained. Not to mention, she's "stunningly good looking." Plus, "She's funny," he said. "I like that I can be myself around her—be nerdy and play video games."

Not everything is perfect, though.

"He's the world's worst procrastinator," Sierra said. "He plays video games all the time."

Blake was not quite so ready to disclose any fault in his fiancée, though.

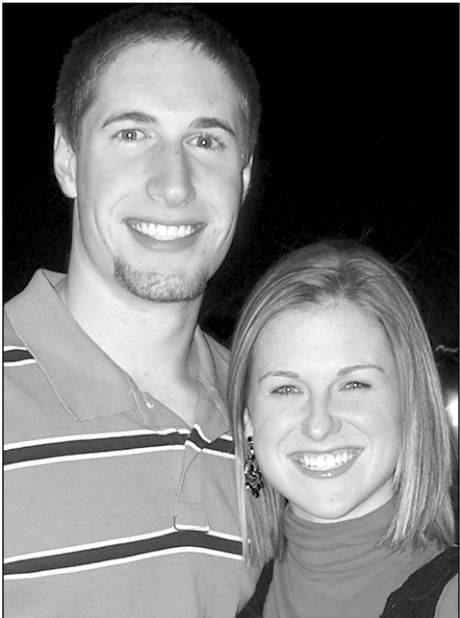
"What can I say here and not get in trouble?" he said jokingly, before answering his own question. "Nothing bothers me about Sierra."

The couple recalled many enjoyable memories, but not everything has been easy for them the past couple of years. Since they come from two different towns, they spend their summers at their own homes. "Being apart in the summer—that was really hard for us," Sierra explained.

The summer after they first started dating, they tried to see each other every couple of weeks.

A time came, though, when they wouldn't see each other for about a month because of work and vacation conflicts. One evening after Blake got off of work, he left for Rolla at 5 p.m., stayed a few hours after he arrived until midnight, then drove back home to be at work for the next morning at 8 a.m.

Sierra recalled it as one of the sweetest



Blake Keaster and Sierra Radford

things he'd done for her, all of it "because he wanted to see me," she said.

Valentine's Day quickly approaches, but the wedding seems to remain their only priority on the planning list. Valentine's day is "his job," Sierra said.

"We could go rock climbing," Blake suggested, one of their many hobbies together. Sierra just shook her head.

Apparently the plans remain undecided. Whatever they decide to do for Valentine's Day, though, they will definitely have a good time. "We have fun," Blake said. "We laugh a lot."

HEAR SAY Reporting by Mike Donnelly

The students of Missouri State are a varied bunch. Just as no two of them likes the same exact toppings on their pizza, they all have different views on love and their idea of a perfect Valentine's Day. *The Underground* approached a few couples around campus to find out exactly how they feel.



Brian Rector
FRESHMAN • BUSINESS

Claire David
FRESHMAN • HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

How they met: Claire babysat Brian's nieces and nephews and met him when he picked them up

Been together: 1 year

Brian: "Anything she wants"

Claire: "It doesn't have to be fancy... I just get to spend time with him"

Key to a successful Relationship

Claire: "Communication"

Brian: "Trust"



Jesse Knickmeyer
JUNIOR • SECONDARY EDUCATION

Meagan Young
JUNIOR • ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

How they met: Over the internet

Been together: 2 years and 11 months

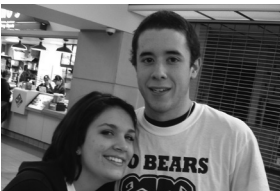
Jesse's perfect valentine's date: "Something cheap..."

Meagan's perfect valentine's date: "Nothing too expensive, just kind of low-key...thoughtful"

Key to a successful Relationship

Jesse: "Honesty and getting along...just having a good time together"

Meagan: "Laughter, not taking each other too seriously...getting along with each other and having fun"



Brandon R'Toule
FRESHMAN • CRIMINOLOGY

Hillary Kummer
FRESHMAN • GRAPHIC DESIGN

How they met: Went to high school together started hanging out over the summer

Been together: A month and a half

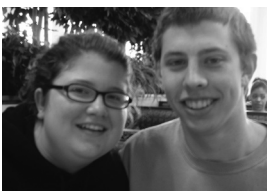
Hillary's Ideal date: "Chinese food, at home on the couch, watching a movie"

Brandon's Ideal date: "Just hanging out"

Key to a successful relationship

Brandon: "Friendship...you have to like the other person"

Hillary: "Being able to talk"



Brent Cook
JUNIOR • ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Savanna Gan
FRESHMAN • SOCIAL WORK

How they met: Went high school together

Been together: 3-4 Months

Key to a Successful Relationship

Brent: "Lots of communication and trusting each other"

Savanna: "Not lying"

Campus organizations provide Valentine's services

Kristen Cypret
Contributor

The frigid winds that blow through the campus may not give the impression that love is in the air, but several of Missouri State's students disagree.

The season of hearts and sonnets is right around the corner and Missouri State is taking strides to provide the community with the right gifts for their valentines.

Organizations are brainstorming to bring a meaning to love as well. Nearly every residence hall is decked out with lavish

posters that publicize events in which students will have the opportunity to make their valentine a special gift.

One example is Hammons House's Candy Grams. The event will be kicking off at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 11.

It is a free event that offers a prize to the best Valentine made.

Beyond the resident halls, the PSU has become a haven for English Society to display their fine poetry grams.

One can come and pick out a lovely work of art and

have it sent anonymously, or they can write their own piece and have it delivered in the same fashion for an affordable price.

Relay for Life will be offering their "Crush on You" candy grams to the public this week.

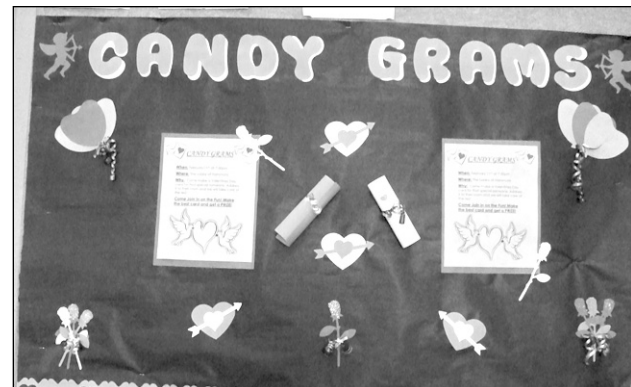
All proceeds will go towards their fight for cancer.

Besides providing students with opportunities to purchase gifts, Missouri State is going a step further to support couples as they blossom in a time of education and change.

The Green Room Schweitzer Ministry is introducing programs for couples who are wanting to go to another level in their relationship.

Beginning Feb. 8 and ending Feb. 22, they offer seminars at 9 p.m. on Sunday to couples that want to find the right person and make their relationships work.

Residence Hall Association is also providing a "What is Love" seminar that will host a panel of couples to provide an insight to the journey



that they are embarking on together.

Students will hear from a newly engaged couple, a recently dating couple,

a homosexual couple, newlyweds and a couple with children.

All of this will be going down in PSU 313.

Chrysanthemum

by Jessica Lynn Green



You showed up where I work, this dusty monochrome box, and I was joyed to see you, my eyes lighting on the yellow flower you held out to me.

So you remembered romance, moved to give me a gift that makes my eyes shine. The flower was like a small sun, a ball of golden petals reaching like shining rays. I smelled the flower, could nearly taste its pungency, such a strong perfume. I hadn't smelled such one like this before, a kind of paradise brought to the desk I sit.

I glanced up through delicately tubed petals, dagged leaves swishing as I made it spin between my fingertips, my lips curling into a contented grin. I stood to hug you then, smelled your shampooed hair, fresh like lavender.

My degree is worth 4,000 bottles of Pert shampoo

Students are people in transition.

Suddenly, newfound freedoms abound. You don't have to shave if you don't want to, your breath can stink if you choose and your dietary habits can resemble the grease trap behind a Korean restaurant.

People are getting pledged, getting drunk, getting diseases and thinking it's the best time of their lives. At the same time, you're getting an education, taking courses that have little to do with your degree and studying at the last minute. What were you going to be when you grew up? And have you changed majors yet?

Just remember; the meter is running.

Unless you're working hard with a full-ride scholarship or your parents are paying your way, you are attending MSU on loans and grants. This means some bank has approved you as an acceptable risk with an eventual return. Right now, interest is accumulating on an account somewhere. Someday, you'll graduate and have to pay off that investment. With your new shiny degree, you'll be able to afford it, right?

At least it will beat flipping burgers back in Sedalia. As the commercial goes, you can't get a job without any skills. You can't get any skills without going to school. You can't go to school without money. And you can't have any money without a job. So we're back to either living with no money or living in debt. Once you get out of school, there should be jobs lined up waiting for a college graduate. But not

always! So what's a good backup plan?

The Washington Student Lobby says students on average graduate with about \$19,000 in debt. That means you're leaving school with nearly nothing but your Bears sweats and your diploma. You'd better have some sort of plan together. Would you pay for a meal you decided not to eat? Of course not. By that logic, who in their right mind would pay for a class they weren't going to attend? Or decide to fail a course they didn't put any effort into?

That's almost \$600 down the drain. You can buy 64,434 live ladybugs off of Amazon.com for the cost of failing a 3-credit course. And I'll bet you could have a lot more fun with that many bugs than you could agonizing over one class for a whole semester.

So remember why you're here. Work hard, because in the end, you want to be able to pay those bills. Every time you drop a grade, think about the wasted money that you'll still have to pay back. One gen ed course - 3654 ping pong balls. A four credit science course - 93 pounds of raw jumbo shrimp. Otherwise, you're going to have to start thinking of ways to pay that 20 grand of debt if you can't get a job. Ideas; pronounce yourself legally dead and move to Wyoming to be a folk singer. Embezzle cash with the mob. Go to Vegas and hope you win big. Learn to count cards and hope to get away before you wind up in an alley with no kneecaps. I like my kneecaps, so I try to do well.



Nathanael Edward Bassett
Contributor

Why These Movies Rule (Or Don't Rule)

by Jessica Lynn Green

Click (2006) - This Adam Sandler flick didn't leave much to be desired—there was the usual brand of comedy. Some pretty teary

drama consumes the movie for a while near the end, but it only made the movie more worth watching.

Ladykillers (2004) - This

awesome comeback for Tom Hanks really catches my attention with its offbeat macabre style. In it, there is a bank heist that pulls off beautifully... but ends in tragedy. This is a comedy to be certain, but has a nice twist.

If These Walls Could Talk (1996) - THE worst movie I have ever had the displeasure to see. If you want something as brainless as *Passion of the Christ* because the film does one thing only, beating its theme into the ground, then this would be your pick. Quite graphic, concerns abortion.

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Newcomer to Springfield looks at oddities of Missouri

Who is John Q. Hammons?

And why is every building named after him?

As a recent transplant to Springfield (I moved here from Kansas in July), this is one of those questions that has been bugging me.

Finally, curiosity overcame me and I Googled him. Apparently, he is a Missouri State graduate and the company he founded owns and operates 71 top-notch hotels across 24 states.

Hammons Field. Hammons Tower. Hammons House. John Q. Hammons Parkway. Hammons Fountain. JQH Arena. (And the list goes on and on.)

See a theme here?

For all he shows in generosity, he (or whoever names all this stuff) equally lacks in creativity.

Jack Bauer Field. Manute Bol Tower. Gregory House. J.B. Fletcher Parkway. Brokeback Fountain. LOL Arena.

If I was rich enough to donate buildings and such, those are the kinds of names I would pick (my wife says that is one of the reasons I will never be rich). But really, Springfield would be much less confusing if every place had, you know, a unique name on it.

Although in all seriousness, I must send a shout out to John Q. Hammons and his generosity. I've been very impressed by all the locales I've seen his name on.

In fact, I can't say there is much I haven't been impressed with here in Springfield.

I've heard some of my friends complain there is just not that much to do here, but I

guess they didn't just move here from the western half of Kansas. The town of Hays, Kans., where I moved from, is a university town with a population of about 20,000.

About all the residents did there was drink (in fact, Hays has the highest alcohol consumption per person in the nation). That's great if you are a really into that, but since neither I nor my wife are, we were left with the only alternative entertainment: Wal-Mart. We'd go there with our friends about 2 or 3 a.m. frequently. It was either that or play Rockband or Halo.

But now that we're in Springfield, wow, there are like seven or eight Wal-Marts to choose from.

Heck, we've even driven over to the Nixa Wal-Mart. And we're starting to discover all the non-Wal-Mart activities in town. Ice skating looks cool. As does go-carting and mini golf. And Branson is less than an hour away. It's also fun going to basketball games at the fancy new JQH Arena.

This town has everything. Heck, I even saw PetSmart is opening a brand new Pet Hotel, where while you are gone your pet can watch "pet themed" television shows and sleep on a lambskin rug and even have personal playtime and training sessions.

That's not to say it has been an easy transition to Missouri life.

Some of the people here are just plain strange. We decided to shop at Aldi discount grocery store one day. With the accents of some of these people, I swore I was lost in an episode of Beverly Hillbillies.

I was half expecting granny's chair to be tied to the roof of a car in the parking lot. And speaking of strange usages of the roof of a car, what is it with people here tying a mattress on top of their vehicles?

I've probably seen 15 cars with a mattress tied up there, and then as they drive, the mattress gets caught by the wind, raises up and then proceeds to slam back down violently on the roof. Weird.

And then there is West Sunshine Street (a.k.a. Rated-R Lane). Seriously, the police need to set up a checkpoint or something to make sure everyone who goes down that street is 18 or older.

But it's not just West Sunshine Street. I go down Battlefield and am just in shock by the names of some of these businesses. Kum and Go. Rapid Roberts. Wood You. Fast Lube.

And as I drive down Battlefield, I am equally stunned by some of the maneuvers drivers try. Illegal u-turns. Swerving in and out of traffic. Not yielding to pedestrians. Driving in the turning lane. Slamming on the brakes for yellow lights.

I guess I can forgive them on the last

one. Red light cameras have to be one of the worst ideas I've ever seen. I'm sure they generate some money in fines for the city, but they must create a lot of rear end accidents when people slam on the brakes for yellow lights.

In Kansas, and I bet to people in a lot of states, yellow means hurry up and drive faster. Not a good combination when the person in front of you is breaking like there's an old women with a baby stroller crossing the street.

Those accidents are sure to keep the police busy. Unfortunately, I've been reading that the Springfield police are going to be stretched more thin after the voters rejected a potential 1-cent sales tax bailout to fund the police and fire pension fund.

Here's an idea: how about the police spend less time setting speed traps and more time catching criminals or, you know, just helping people in need. That protect and serve stuff. I've gone down the James River Freeway and seen two cop cars sitting back to back, the cops standing outside, radar guns drawn, just waiting for some poor speeder to pass. Here's a better idea: move those red light cameras onto the James River and send tickets to speeders instead of wasting police resources. Sorry, but those dumb red light cameras drive me nuts.

But really, I have enjoyed my brief time in Springfield. And I've enjoyed Missouri State as well. It really is a nice place to live and go to school.

Now if they'd just come up with some unique building names.



Zach Becker
Editor-in-Chief

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Next two issues:

Wednesday, Feb. 25

Wednesday, March 11

THE UNDERGROUND

Love takes a holiday

Is there anything to celebrate on Valentine's Day?

It's the day when vans and trucks fan out to schools, offices, and homes across the country.

They carry the manifestation of our culturally approved affections, typically from men to women.

The women practice their reaction of surprise, embarrassment, and joy when the delivery comes.

The men secretly rehearse a nonchalant grin, masking their satisfaction at gaining approval.

All this daydreamt anticipation then comes to fruition on the fourteenth.

At some level, most adults are aware that Valentine's Day is largely a creation of those that sell carnations, confections, and greeting cards.

It's a way to prop up sagging sales between

Christmas and Easter. It's marketed as a celebration of idealized romantic love, the kind of love can only be expressed in white lettering against pink cardboard.

As dreamy as it is, this holiday also comes with a warning.

Only with trinkets can you expect to achieve this level of bliss. Only with tokens can you hope to keep your mate satisfied.

There is nothing new about advertising using worry and fear as motivators, though it is particularly crass to imply that the health of a romantic relationship might rest on buying some piece of jewelry.

But Zales and Hallmark make this hard sell only a few times a year.

Everyday is Valentine's Day for drug companies, who are all too happy to make you sane, thin, and attractive.

Never mind that our jobs run us ragged while paying less money, that much of our food is garbage, that the human relationships we see again and again in our media are reduced to shallow caricatures.

Any depression, loneliness, or insecurity you feel is an illness, a chemical imbalance. We are Americans, after all, autonomous individuals, unaffected by our society.

And that insecurity, that fear is precisely the wedge that drives us and keeps us apart

much of the time, perhaps more so for college students than others.

So much emphasis is placed on 'my' own achievement, my grades, my performance, my appearance, my career. Many of us will never be as freely self-centered as we are during our time here at school.

Answers are supposedly found by looking inward at the expense of looking outward.

Even as we walk the halls of this shrine to the ego, there are some few who try to bridge the gulf between us.

The deck is surely stacked against them. When people are plagued with insecurities, when our culture cherishes individualism, when people all around us forgo community, career, and family for self-satisfaction, it's amazing that anyone bothers to build intimate relationships at all.

In fact, you might say it is worthy of a holiday.



Jason McGill
Contributor

Riding the bus brings unique challenges

The metal seat has a too-thinly stuffed plastic cushion. A ticket costs three dollars for a day-pass, and a one-way ticket is a dollar (add ten cents to that amount for a transfer).

Small windows allow passengers to see outside where sunshine reflects across the pavement.

People crowd close, breathing heavy as they try and get a gander at book titles or what's in a purse as those items are clutched closer for safekeeping.

A baby begins to squall. Welcome to life on a Springfield City Utilities bus line, where your ride is perpetually five minutes early or late so you have to stand outside and brave the elements that much longer.

For those of us college kids who happen to not own a car and live far enough from campus for walking to be a hassle, this is what we are reduced to: the bus.

While this convention isn't exactly convenient at the best of times (like getting anywhere in town in under half an hour since an average bus ride is forty-five minutes), it can certainly be helpful at the worst of times (like when bad weather strikes and you can't walk, get a ride, or—if you have one—move your car).

Riding the bus may sound dodgy—I mean, who wants

to listen to unruly children make huge fusses because their parents won't continue their chocolate bar bribes?—but the experience of riding the bus can really give a person insight into how people interact and antagonize or support one another.

Of the antagonists, there are the gangster wannabes; the preppy girls who put others down as if they are continually having their reputations attacked; the heavy smokers that get packed in small spaces; the Goth crowd that wears their spikes and chains while the elderly and unadorned ogle them disapprovingly; a certain fanatic who proselytizes his religion on the unwilling; and running beneath all human influences the crowding on the bus, the small space and the overpriced fare.

I have seen many faces as they get on and off the bus, but more than anything I see distinct members of the lower and middle class, hard-working people who just need the bus to get around.

They are the people who carry and end up in discussions over the literary works they hold in their hands and read to pass the noisy motor and metal squeal sounds the bus makes.

For many, riding the bus appears to be shameful. They hide their faces and stare out the windows, or they glower at everybody.

Not that I can blame the glowering. I've done that a time or two so people who like to stare would stop. That's a bad habit a lot of people on the bus have: staring.

But why do they stare? Perhaps they are seeing as I am seeing, seeing these faces going different places and wondering how the people they belong to are in their minds? There is a lot of introspection on a bus.

While there are only so many things that can happen on a bus, aside from general wondering about others you see, I find it important to remember safety measures—especially if you are riding alone.

As a long-time bus rider, here are a few tips. First, you want to look confident; that keeps others from thinking you look like somebody they want to bother.

Staying quiet tends to help keep you out of trouble but can get you in a lot of involuntary discussions.

Keeping to well-lighted areas of the terminal or the bus stops will help avoid people potentially sneaking up on you at night.

Finally, either keep hold of your belongings at all times or keep them in your pockets so you don't lose anything.

If you think you want to utilize the bus system, you can find the transit center downtown off of Park Central West on Patton and McDaniel Street.

If you need more direct help with figuring out what bus to ride, you can call (417) 831-8782.

City Utilities Transit information can be found at: <https://www.cityutilities.net/transit/transit.htm>



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✂ Volunteer Fair

Groups seek student volunteers

Abby Jo Moore
Contributor

Last Wednesday’s volunteer fair in the Plaster Student Union hosted over 50 different organizations, all looking for motivated college students just wanting to help out.

With opportunities ranging in focus from dog-lovers to multi-lingual tutoring and bikers for a cause, students with a variety of interests can find a position unique to their desires.

One such opportunity exists at Christian County Animal Shelter.

They are looking for volunteers to do “a multitude of things,” said Lisa Haney, a representative from the shelter.

They need student support to run the thrift store that funds the shelter, to feed and walk the animals at the adoption center opening next month and even transporters to drive animals from one location to another.

“It’s like a dog relay,” Haney said. When dogs need to be transported to a shelter in another city, students can take dogs with them.

Haney described it as “ideal” for college students because they take the dogs on their trips home to see family and drop them off when they arrive.

Haney has worked in animal rescue for over 15 years now, and her reasons for it haven’t faltered. “It’s just saving these dogs that have no chance—that’s the amazing thing,” Haney said.

The shelter has already saved numerous animals that would have otherwise been euthanized because of overpopulation, and they look to expand that success with student volunteers. Check out <http://www.cc-as.com> to

find out how to get involved.

The Literacy Center provides another option for volunteers to choose from, placing students in various elementary school settings in order to help kids with their homework and play games with them during recreation periods.

“These kids will fall in love with you,” W Roy Roworth said. “A lot of these kids, when they go home at night, don’t have anyone to nurture them. . . .Our focus is to get them through school.”

As a friend and a role model for these children, the student volunteers “give them a different perspective,” Roworth said—a different perspective on what they can become. He emphasized how the volunteers, by doing so, become “all the difference in these kids’ lives.”

For students with an interest in multi-lingual volunteer opportunities, many programs need help with their children from backgrounds where parents speak very little English.

The Literacy Center places volunteers in these after-school programs that focus on English as a second language. Roworth can be reached at wroyroworth@misouristate.edu.

Other groups, such as the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, provide short-term volunteer opportunities for students looking to participate in sporadic events. The group hosts various fundraisers throughout the year, two of which are Walk MS and Bike MS.

Walk MS takes place in downtown Springfield with three, six, and nine mile walks. The routes remain completely accessible for wheelchairs and scooters, so all kinds of participants can join. Afterwards comes lunch at

Outback Steakhouse, so Heather Hodges, Development Coordinator, encourages all to “come out for a 4-hour shift and have fun.”

Bike MS involves a little more endurance. A two-day ride of 150 miles, the event starts in Springfield as bikers move to Joplin on day one and then ends at the same place when bikers return on day two.

“It’s so much fun,” Hodges said. “It’s a big, big machine once it starts.”

Hodges’ favorite story to tell involves a client with MS who, although he can’t physically walk or ride during the events, never misses his chance to participate.

He makes signs to thank all the volunteers for supporting him, then goes down the line “high-fiving all of them,” Hodges explained. Excitement lit up her face as she recalled the energy he brought to the cause.

Students paraded the different booths during the volunteer fair, scouting out various possibilities that would fit their focus.

As a therapeutic recreation major, junior Carly Scott utilizes volunteer work as a key element in her field.

In the past, she has participated in Champion Athletes and Habitat for Humanity, among various other organizations, but she doesn’t want to stop there. “I’m always trying to look for new places,” she said.

For Mindy Towe, a senior Psychology major at Missouri State, she’s “just now getting started.” Although she’s worked with various agencies in the past, she needs ideas of what to do because of her soon approaching graduation.

She enjoyed the idea of joining the Down Syndrome Group of the Ozarks. “I’m really going to try to get involved with that,” she said.

Driving Drunk Is Bad!


Appoint a designated driver and avoid the risk...



The D.D. gets free non-alcoholic drinks at the following Springfield establishments:

The Abyss	Classic Sports	Martha's Vineyard	Sir Gregory's Billiards
Applebee's	Ernie Biggs	Midnight Rodeo	South Avenue Pizza
The Boogie	Harlow's	Nathan P.	Springfield Brewing Company
The Burgundy Room	Harpo's	Murphy's	Traffic Downtown Club
Cartoon's Oyster	Hooters	The Pasta House	Trolley's
Casey's	Icon	Ray's Lounge	
Chili's	Jordan Creek	The Rockwell	

The Cheers program is sponsored by the Missouri Department of Highway Safety & GAMMA.

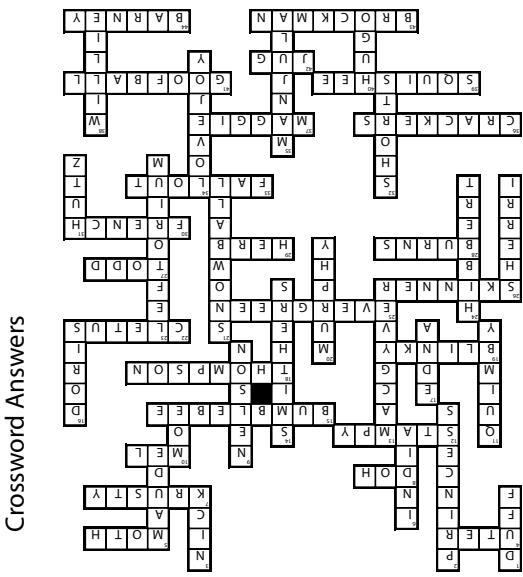


Valentine's Day Word Search

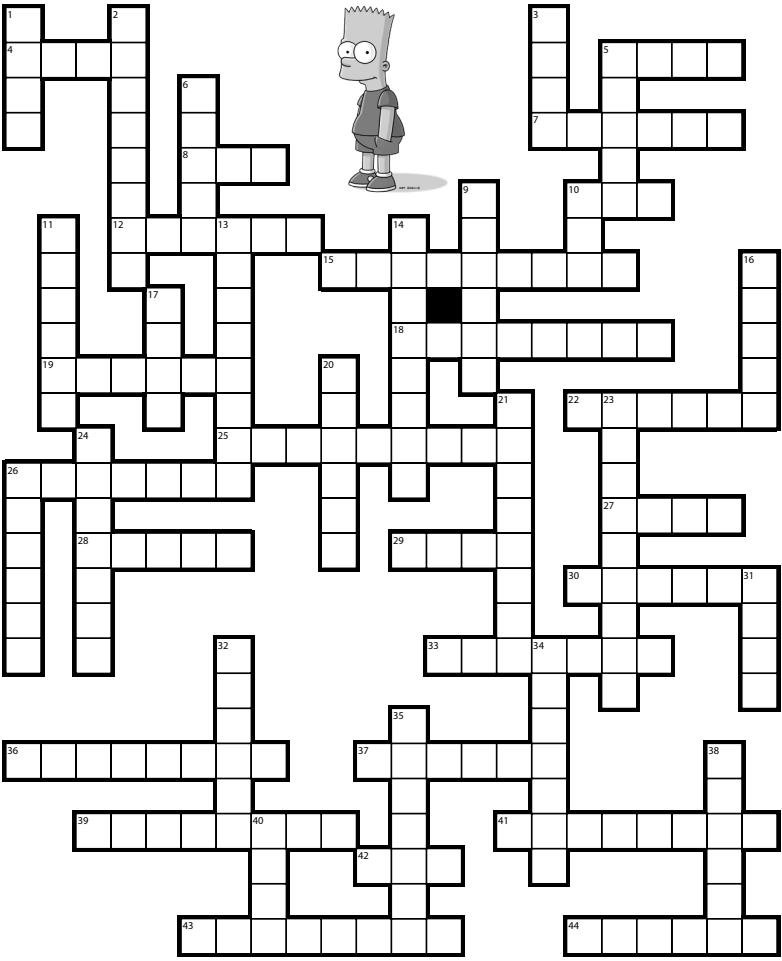
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G S P J O I D T X Y N Y M K K X U L B N P F C Y W R N O F O
H P L L C J S K J D C O C Q H T N E E T R U O F T O T A W Z
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C Y Z N U N U X O O T D S L Q O A D E E D D U B A A K F G G
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K N B J H V P O U Q N X L P Y Z H C S D W S E Y U U L E P I

Word Bank

- Chocolate
Sweetheart
Flowers
Hugs
Cupid
Love
Date
Valentine
Arrow
Card
Boyfriend
Girlfriend
Kiss
February
Surprises
Candy
- Heart
Party
Roses
Friendship
Lovebirds
Candles
Ribbons
Romance
Pink
Red
Lace
Balloons
Candlelight
Bouquet
Fourteenth



The Simpsons Trivia Crossword



- Across**
- 4. Exchange student from Germany
 - 5. What Bart's tattoo says
 - 7. _____ the Clown
 - 8. Homer's catch phrase
 - 10. Replacement for sideshow Bob; Sideshow _____
 - 12. Name of Bart's elephant
 - 15. Insect star on channel Ocho
 - 18. Alias last name the Simpsons use when hiding from Sideshow Bob
 - 19. Name of the fish with three eyes
 - 22. The town's slack-jawed yokel
 - 25. Street the Simpsons live on; _____ Terrace
 - 26. Principal at Springfield Elementary
 - 27. Name of Flander's children: Rod and _____
 - 28. "Release the hounds."
 - 29. First name of Homer's brother
 - 30. Bart can speak this language
 - 33. Radioactive Man's sidekick's name; _____ Boy
 - 36. Product manufactured where Milhouse's dad works
 - 37. Who shot Mr. Burns?
 - 39. Drink found only at Kwik-E-Mart
 - 41. Capital City's mascot
 - 42. When Lisa's saxophone is stolen,

- what instrument does Homer buy her instead?
43. Host of Channel 5 Action News
44. Name of the Plow King
- Down**
- 1. Popular beer in Springfield
 - 2. Name of Lisa's pony
 - 3. "Hi Everybody"; "Hi Dr. _____"
 - 5. Ned Flander's wife
 - 6. Home country of the head of Kwik-E-Mart
 - 9. The bully; Lisa's ex-boyfriend
 - 10. Name of Homer's bar tender
 - 11. Mayor of Springfield
 - 13. Favorite television show of Patty and Selma
 - 14. Assistant to Mr. Burns
 - 16. Lunchlady at Springfield Elementary
 - 17. First name of Mrs. Krabappel
 - 20. Bleedin' Gums _____
 - 21. Name of (several) Simpson's cats
 - 23. Name of Ned Flander's store
 - 24. Simpson's family doctor
 - 26. Twins in Bart's class; Terri and _____
 - 31. Attorney-owner of "I can't believe its a law firm"; Lionel _____
 - 32. "Eat my _____"
 - 34. The reverend
 - 35. Apu's wife
 - 38. Name of the groundskeeper
 - 40. Name of Bart's conjoined twin

Esther's Macaroni & Cheese

1. Boil 8 oz. macaroni for 7-8 minutes in water with a touch of salt.
2. Meanwhile, melt a half-pound of cubed-cut velveeta cheese along with 2-1/2 cups of 2 percent milk in the microwave, stirring frequently.
3. Pour the macaroni into a pyrex-type pan, pour the cheese mixture over the top and bake at 300 degrees for one hour. Enjoy!

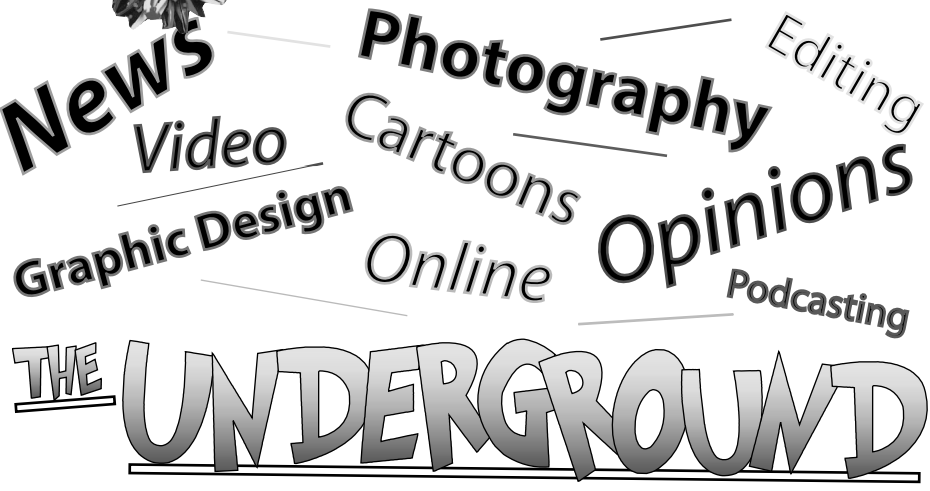


Quote of the Day

"Reverse psychology is an awesome tool. I don't know if you guys know about it, but, basically, you make someone think the opposite of what you believe. And that tricks them into doing something stupid. Works like a charm."



-Michael Scott
Regional Manager
Dunder Mifflin



Looking for student contributors...

Join a fun, exciting and rewarding activity, while building your resume and portfolio. *No experience necessary.*
Email us at msu.underground@gmail.com; www.MSU-Underground.com